

I claim:

1. A method to facilitate presence-related updates, comprising:
 - detecting when a communication unit becomes active notwithstanding whether the communication unit self-initiates a network presence update;
 - automatically sourcing a network presence update message on behalf of the communication unit from an entity other than the communication unit.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein detecting when a communication unit becomes active further comprises detecting when a wireless communication unit becomes active.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein detecting when a wireless communication unit becomes active further comprises detecting, via a Radio Access Network (RAN), when the wireless communication unit becomes active.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein automatically sourcing a network presence update message on behalf of the communication unit from other than the communication unit further comprises providing the network presence update message to a presence server.
5. The method of claim 4 wherein automatically sourcing a network presence update message on behalf of the communication unit from other than the communication unit further comprises automatically sourcing the network presence update message from a Packet Data Serving Node (PDSN).
6. The method of claim 4 wherein automatically sourcing a network presence update message on behalf of the communication unit from other than the communication unit further comprises automatically sourcing the network presence update message from a network access server.

7. The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

- in response to the network presence update message automatically updating the communication unit with respect to at least some network presence information.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein automatically updating the communication unit with respect to at least some network presence information further comprises sourcing the at least some network presence information from a presence server.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein automatically updating the communication unit with respect to at least some network presence information further comprises automatically updating the communication unit with respect to at least some network presence information comprising at least one item of presence information for a second, different communication unit.

10. The method of 1 and further comprising:

- when the communication unit does self-initiate a network presence update, automatically updating the communication unit with respect to at least some network presence information.

11. The method of claim 1 and further comprising:

- automatically buffering network presence information updates as correspond to the communication unit to provide buffered updated presence information;
- automatically updating the communication unit with respect to the buffered updated presence information.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein automatically updating the communication unit with respect to the buffered updated presence information further comprises automatically updating the communication unit with respect to the buffered updated presence information when at least a predetermined number of the network presence information updates have been so buffered.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein automatically updating the communication unit with respect to the buffered updated presence information further comprises automatically updating the communication unit with respect to the buffered updated presence information when at least one item of the buffered updated presence information has been buffered for at least a predetermined period of time.

14. The method of claim 11 wherein automatically updating the communication unit with respect to the buffered updated presence information further comprises automatically updating the communication unit with respect to the buffered updated presence information when either:

- at least a predetermined number of the network presence information updates have been so buffered; and
- at least one item of the buffered updated presence information has been buffered for at least a predetermined period of time.

15. A system to facilitate maintaining at least relatively current presence information at a mobile communication unit, comprising:

- a wireless communication interface having a two-way wireless link with the mobile communication unit at least from time to time;
- a presence detector that is operably coupled to the wireless communication interface and having a mobile communication unit presence-detected output that provides a presence-detected output signal regardless of whether the mobile communication unit has requested an update of presence information;
- a presence server;
- a presence information update requester that is operably coupled to the mobile communication unit presence-detected output of the presence detector and having a mobile communication unit presence information request output operably coupled to the presence server.

16. The system of claim 15 wherein the presence detector comprises a Radio Access Network (RAN).

17. The system of claim 16 wherein the presence information update requester comprises a network access server.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein the network access server comprises at least one of a Packet Data Serving Node (PDSN) and a Home Location Register (HLR).

19. The system of claim 15 wherein the presence server further comprises update means responsive to the mobile communication unit presence information request output for automatically providing updated presence information to the mobile communication unit.

20. The system of claim 19 wherein the update means further comprises a buffer having at least one recent item of updated presence information.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the update means further comprises decision means for determining when to automatically provide the updated presence information to the mobile communication unit.

22. The system of claim 21 wherein the decision means determines when to automatically provide the update presence information to the mobile communication unit as a function, at least in part, of at least one of:

- an amount of updated presence information as is contained in the buffer;
- a duration of time; and
- a predetermined level of quality of service.

23. The system of claim 22 wherein the duration of time comprises a duration of time as corresponds to an oldest item of updated presence information as is contained in the buffer.

24. The system of claim 22 wherein the duration of time comprises a duration of time as corresponds to a last transmission of updated presence information to the mobile communication unit.

25. A method comprising:

at a Packet Data Serving Node (PDSN):

- receiving an indication that a communication unit has become active, which indication does not indicate that the communication unit has also requested an update of presence information;
- automatically sourcing a message to request that an update of presence information as corresponds to the communication unit be transmitted to the communication unit.

26. The method of claim 25 wherein receiving an indication that a communication unit has become active further comprises receiving the indication from a Radio Access Network (RAN).

27. The method of claim 25 wherein automatically sourcing a message further comprises automatically sourcing a message to a presence server.

28. The method of claim 25 wherein receiving an indication that a communication unit has become active further comprises receiving an indication that a wireless communication unit has become active.

29. A method comprising:

at a network access server:

- receiving an indication that a communication unit's presence status has changed, which indication does not indicate that the communication unit has also requested an update of presence information;
- automatically sourcing a message to request that an update of presence information as corresponds to the communication unit be transmitted to the communication unit.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein receiving an indication that a communication unit's presence status has changed further comprises receiving the indication from a Radio Access Network (RAN).